

CLAIM AMENDMENTS AND LISTING

The listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1.-11. (Canceled).

12. (Currently Amended) A method of conducting an on-line bidding session, comprising:  
storing registered bidding groups in a database coupled to a processor in an auction computer, each of the registered bidding groups including a list of associated bidders;  
receiving bids from bidders on a plurality of remote computers ~~coupled to a network~~;  
determining a respective bidding group's total bid by accumulating the bids received from bidders included in the respective bidding group's list of associated bidders; and  
storing the determined total bid in the database.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, further comprising creating registration records in the database, each registration record corresponding to a bidder account and including a bidder name, a bidder identification and a financial account number.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein receiving bids includes receiving the respective bidder name and respective identification the method further comprising:  
verifying using the processor whether the respective bidder name and respective identification match a registration record stored in the database; and  
recording a bid record in the database if the respective bidder name and the respective identification number have a verified match.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising:  
determining if the determined-total bid exceeds a threshold, and if so declaring the bidding group associated with the respective total bid a winning group;  
retrieving the recorded bid records associated with the respective total bid;  
determining at least one bidder account that corresponds to the retrieved bid records; and  
charging the determined bidder-account the bid amounts included in the bid records.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein after determining the total bid associated with the respective bidding group, sending the determined total bid over ~~the~~ a computer network to at least one remote computer of at least one bidder associated with the respective bidding group.
17. (Currently Amended) A method of conducting an auction comprising:  
registering a plurality of bidding groups;  
receiving bids from bidders, each bid including a respective bid designation corresponding to one of the plurality of bidding groups;  
associating each bid with at least one of the plurality of bidding groups; and  
declaring a winning bidding group from the plurality of bidding groups.
18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein each bidding group has a corresponding total bid amount and each bid further includes a respective bid amount that is contributed to the total bid amount for a corresponding bidding.
19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the winning bidding group has the largest total bid amount at the end of the bidding session.
20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, further comprising displaying of the total bid amount for one or more of the plurality of bidding groups.
21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the registering a plurality of bidding groups uses at lease one central computer coupled to a network.
22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the network comprises the Internet.
23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the network comprises one or more communication lines.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising using wherein the receiving bid uses one or more remote computers coupled to the network to receive bids.
25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the auction is on-line.
26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising creating one or more bidder accounts.
27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein associating each bid with at least one of the plurality of bidding groups comprises bid pooling.
28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the auction continues until a pre-defined threshold occurs.
29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the pre-defined threshold is a period of time.
30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the pre-defined threshold is a minimum bidding activity.
31. (Previously Presented) A method of conducting an auction, comprising:  
registering a plurality of bidding groups;  
receiving bids from bidders, each bid including a bid designation corresponding to one of the plurality bidding groups;  
contributing a respective bid amount in each bid to at least one total bid amount corresponding to at least one of the plurality of bidding groups; and  
declaring a winning bidding group from the plurality of bidding groups.
32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the winning bidding group has the largest total bid amount at the end of the bidding session.

33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31, further comprising using wherein the registering a plurality of bidding groups uses at least one central computer coupled to a network to register a plurality of bidding groups.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the network comprises the Internet.

35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 33, wherein the network comprises one or more communication lines ~~line~~.

36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 33, further comprising using wherein the receiving bid uses one or more remote computers coupled to the network to receive bids.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the auction is on-line.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, further comprising creating one or more bidder accounts.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein contributing the respective bid amount in each bid to at least one total bid amount corresponding to at least one of the plurality of bidding groups comprises bid pooling.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, further comprising displaying of the total bid amount for one or more of the plurality of bidding groups.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the auction continues until a pre-defined threshold occurs.

42. (Previously Presented) The methods of claim 41, wherein the pre-defined threshold is a period of time.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, wherein the pre-defined threshold is a minimum bidding activity.